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1981

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4-24-1981

04/24/1981 - Football Alumni

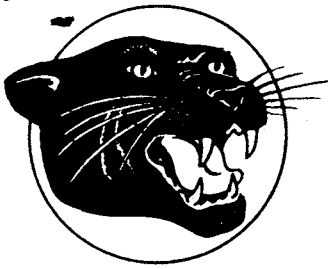
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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/24/1981 - Football Alumni" (1981). 1981. 493.
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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April 24, 1981

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Over 30 Eastern Illinois University football alumni, most from the three recent championship caliber teams, will challenge the varsity in the annual Blue-White spring game.

The alumni-varsity tilt will start at 5:30 p.m. Saturday (May 2) at Paris High School. Admission is \$1.50 with proceeds going to the high school booster club and community youth football program.

Three former All-Americans, wide receiver Scott McGhee, defensive lineman Randy Melvin and center Jack Lafferty, lead a squad which had a combined 30-9 record, won the 1978 NCAA II championship and finished second last fall.

"This definitely is the best group of alumni that's ever played the varsity," said Ray Jeske, currently a student assistant coach with the Panthers who will coach the alumni team.

"We're trying to get together at least two units so we can keep a fresh bunch on the field most of the time . . . we obviously aren't in as good of shape as the varsity but we'll have a lot of talent out there."

Besides Melvin, Jeske has received defensive line commitments from Charlie Krutsinger, Tom Seward, Rocky Becker, Rick Shipbaugh and John Lipp.

Jeske, a starter on the '78 championship unit, will play linebacker along with Alonzo Lee, Tim Matichak, Tom Quinkert and Ray Kemezys.

Charleston's Bill Moore will lead the defensive secondary along with Rich Brown, who set a record for pass interceptions-last year. Others are Glenn Thomas, Don Pittman and Chris Merenowicz.

Record setting passer Steve Turk will be the quarterback directing his throws to McGhee and Otis Grant. The running backs will be Laurent Baker, Lonnie Denton and Jeff Forster.

EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 1

Martez Smith and Doug Hiatt will split duties at tight end. The offensive line will be Lafferty, Blair Brown, Clinton Davenport, Eric White, Steve Watson and Kurt Aloisio.